AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Listing of the Claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application. Claims 2, 4–14, 16–40, and 46–54 are pending and under examination. Claims 2, 4–14, 16–40, and 46–51 are amended; claims 1, 3, 15, 41–45, and 55 were previously cancelled; and claims 52–54 are as originally filed.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1.   (Cancelled)

2.   (Amended) ~~An information collection defining a body of law stored on a~~ A computer readable medium encoded to represent an information collection including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

   a body of law comprising one or more parts; and

   ~~parts of the body of law that are~~ temporal information stored in association with ~~temporal information~~ respective parts of the body of law and comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of the respective part of the body of law;~~, and~~

   the body of law comprising a plurality of topics each having associated therewith at least one part of the body of law and including information relating to the at least one part of the body of law, at least one of the topics having associated therewith a plurality of parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other and have different temporal information associated therewith.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Amended) ~~An information collection defining a body of law stored on a~~ A computer readable medium encoded to represent an information collection including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

~~unique units of information defining~~ a body of law <u>comprising one or more unique information units,</u> each information unit including ~~a~~ <u>at least one</u> part of the body of law[[,]]<u>; and</u>

a plurality of topical units<u>, each comprising at least one topic within a scheme for organizing a plurality of interrelated topics, being</u> stored in association with at least one information unit<u>,</u> and including information relating to the at least one information unit associated therewith[[,]]<u>;</u>

each information unit being stored in association with temporal information <u>comprising one or more dates indicating</u> ~~that indicates~~ the <u>legal</u> applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of the <u>at least one</u> part of the body of law included in <u>the respective</u> ~~that~~ information unit, <u>and</u> at least one topical unit having associated therewith a plurality of information units that each include different versions of the same part of the body of law and have different temporal information associated therewith.

5. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ <u>A computer readable medium</u> according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the information collection is structured so that a part of the body of law can be accessed based at least on the temporal information associated therewith.

6. (Amended) ~~An information unit~~ <u>A computer readable medium</u> according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein the information collection is structured so that an information unit can be accessed based at least on the temporal information associated therewith.

7. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ <u>A computer readable medium</u> according to claim 4, wherein the information collection is structured so that an information unit can be accessed based at least on the temporal information associated therewith, directly or through a topical unit with which that information unit is associated.

8. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ <u>A computer readable medium</u> according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein each information unit includes the associated temporal information.

9.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein at least one link exists between each information unit and ~~its associated~~ the temporal information ~~are~~ associated therewith.

10.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein each information unit comprises a structured document including a part of the body of law and ~~its associated~~ the temporal information associated therewith.

11.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the representation of the information collection comprises a relational database including records, and each information unit and the ~~its associated~~ temporal information associated therewith are included in a respective record.

12.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the representation of the information collection comprises a plurality of files, each file storing at least one information unit and its associated temporal information.

13.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the representation of the information collection comprises a plurality of files, each file storing at least one topical unit, ~~and~~ each information unit associated therewith, and ~~its associated~~ the respective temporal information associated with each information unit associated therewith.

14.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the representation of the information collection comprises a plurality of files, each file storing at least one topical unit, ~~and~~ each information unit associated therewith, and ~~its associated~~ the respective temporal information associated with each information unit associated therewith.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4 ~~or 15~~, ~~comprising~~ wherein the information collection comprises a hierarchical arrangement of topical units and associated information units.

17.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4 ~~or 15~~, wherein the information associated with a topical unit includes the temporal information

relating to the applicability with respect to time of stored in association with at least one of the information units associated with the respective topical unit.

18.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4 ~~or 15~~, wherein the information collection is hierarchically organized as a topic tree that comprises a plurality of nodes, with each node representing one of the topical units, the tree having leaf nodes representing atomic topical units, each atomic topical unit being a topical unit that is not subdivided, and wherein each information unit associated with a respective topical unit is associated with the leaf node representing that topical unit.

19.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim 4 ~~or 15~~, ~~comprising~~ wherein the information collection comprises at least one table of contents (TOC) associated with the atomic topical units, each TOC including a reference to each information unit associated with the respective atomic topical unit.

20.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1, 2,~~ ~~3~~ or 4, wherein the temporal information includes a date range.

21.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the temporal information includes a date range, and wherein the information collection is structured so that a part of the body of law can be accessed based at least on a date encompassed by the date range associated with that part of the body of law.

22.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein the temporal information includes a date range, and wherein the information collection is structured so that an information unit can be accessed based at least on a date encompassed by the date range associated with that information unit.

23.   (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1, 2,~~ ~~3~~ or 4, wherein the temporal information comprises a date range including a date on which the related part of the body of law is effective, and, if that part of the body of law has a date of termination, ~~the date range includes~~ the date of termination.

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24. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein at least one part of the body of law has associated therewith a date on which that part of body of law included was adopted.

25. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~3 or~~ 4, wherein at least one information unit has associated therewith a date on which the part of body of law included in the information unit was adopted.

26. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1, 2,~~ 3 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of the United States Code.

27. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1, 2,~~ 3 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of the United States Code of Federal Regulations.

28. (Amended) ~~An information collection~~ A computer readable medium according to claim ~~1, 2,~~ 3 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of a codified set of laws of at least one state.

29. (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded to represent an ~~An~~ information collection, including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

    a plurality of structured documents defining a body of law ~~stored on a computer readable medium~~, the body of law ~~information collection~~ comprising a plurality of atomic parts, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, such that each atomic part is ~~of the body of law that are~~ stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of a the respective atomic part ~~of the body of law~~;[[,]]

    wherein a plurality of the atomic parts of the body of law ~~being~~ comprises different versions of the same atomic part of the body of law, each ~~other and~~ having different temporal information associated therewith;[[,]] and

each atomic part ~~of the body of law~~ and ~~its associated~~ <u>the</u> temporal information <u>associated therewith are</u> ~~being~~ included <u>together</u> in the same structured document.

30.   (Amended) <u>A computer readable medium encoded to represent an</u> ~~An~~ information collection<u>, including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded</u>

5   <u>information collection</u> comprising<u>:</u>

<u>a plurality of lower-level</u> structured documents defining a body of law ~~stored on a computer readable medium~~, the ~~information collection~~ <u>body of law</u> comprising <u>a plurality of</u> atomic parts<u>, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, such that each atomic part is</u> ~~of the body of law that are~~ stored in

10   association with temporal information <u>comprising one or more dates</u> indicating the <u>legal</u> applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of a <u>the</u> respective atomic part ~~of the body of law~~, <u>and</u> each atomic part ~~of the body of law~~ and ~~its associated~~ <u>the</u> temporal information <u>associated therewith are</u> ~~being~~ included <u>together</u> in a separate lower level structured document<u>;</u>[[,]] and

15   at least one higher level structured document[[s]] including information relating to at least one lower level structured document[[s]] that is in a hierarchical relationship with a higher level <u>structured</u> document<u>;</u>[[,]]

<u>wherein</u> a plurality of <u>the</u> atomic parts of the body of law ~~being~~ <u>comprises</u> different versions of <u>the same atomic part of the body of law,</u> each ~~other and~~

20   having different temporal information associated therewith<u>;</u>[[,]] <u>and</u>

at least one higher level <u>structured</u> document ~~having~~ <u>has</u> information relating to ~~a~~ <u>the</u> plurality of lower level <u>structured</u> documents that ~~each includes a~~ <u>comprises</u> different version<u>s</u> of the same atomic part of the body of law and the ~~associated~~ <u>respective</u> temporal information <u>associated therewith</u>.

25 31.   (Amended) <u>A computer readable medium encoded to represent an</u> ~~An~~ information collection<u>, including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded</u> <u>information collection</u> comprising<u>:</u>

a plurality of lower level structured documents ~~defining~~ related to a common subject, which comprises a plurality of interrelated topics, and ~~stored on a computer readable medium, the information collection~~ comprising a plurality of atomic parts, each atomic part comprising information that pertains to ~~of~~ the

5   common subject matter and being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, that are stored in association with temporal information comprising at least one date indicating a state or status with respect to time of the ~~a~~ respective atomic part of the common subject, each atomic part of the common subject and ~~its associated~~ the temporal information associated therewith being included in a separate lower

10   level structured document;[[,]] and

at least one higher level structured document including information relating to at least one lower level structured document that is in a hierarchical relationship with a higher level structured document;[[,]]

wherein a plurality of atomic parts comprises ~~being~~ different versions of the same

15   atomic part ~~each other and having~~ that have different temporal information associated respectively therewith[[,]]; and

at least one higher level structured document ~~having~~ has information relating to a plurality of lower level structured documents that each includes a different version of the same atomic part ~~of the common subject~~ and the ~~associated~~

20   temporal information associated therewith.

32.   (Amended) A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 30 or 31, wherein at least one higher level structured document includes a table of contents (TOC) including a reference to each lower level structured document associated therewith.

33.   (Amended) A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim

25   32, ~~comprising~~ wherein the information collection comprises at least one higher level structured document including a TOC having a reference to at least one other higher level structured document hierarchically related to the at least one higher level structured document in an ancestral/descendant relationship.

34.   (Amended)   A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 32, ~~comprising~~ wherein the information collection comprises at least one higher level structured document including a TOC having a reference to at least one other higher level structured document and to each lower level structured document referenced by the at least one other higher level structured document, the at least one higher level structured document being hierarchically related in an ancestral/descendant relationship with the at least one other higher level structured document, and each of the lower level structured documents.

35.   (Amended)   A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 30 or 31, ~~comprising~~ wherein the information collection comprises at least one structured document indicating differences between different versions of the same atomic part.

36.   (Amended)   ~~An information collection defining a body of law stored on a~~ A computer readable medium[[,]] encoded to represent an information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

        a body of law comprising a plurality of unique atomic parts, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible and ~~of the body of law each~~ stored in association with a date range indicating the legal ~~temporal~~ applicability of that atomic part ~~of the body of law~~; and

        a table of contents (TOC) having a plurality of headings each of which identifies one or more atomic parts of the body of law that are associated therewith, at least one heading being associated with a plurality of atomic parts that are different versions of each other and have different date ranges associated therewith, and each atomic part of the body of law being associated with at least one heading.

37.   (Amended)   A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 36, wherein the headings have temporal information associated therewith that comprises one or more dates that indicate the ~~temporal~~ legal applicability of each atomic part of the body of law associated therewith.

38.   (Amended)   A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 36, wherein the information collection provides access to an atomic part of the body of law in

response to a request including at least a date encompassed by the date range associated with that part.

39.   (Amended) A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 36, wherein each atomic part of the body of law and ~~its associated~~ date range <u>associated</u>

5   <u>therewith</u> are included in a structured document.

40.   (Amended) A computer readable medium ~~An information collection~~ according to claim 39, wherein each TOC is included in a structured document having a reference to each other structured document having an atomic part of the body of law referenced in a heading of that TOC.

10   41.   (Cancelled)

42.   (Cancelled)

43.   (Cancelled)

44.   (Cancelled)

45.   (Cancelled)

15   46.   (Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

a computer system including a computer display device, a computer input device and a computer-readable medium, the computer system being coupled to access data stored on the computer-readable medium;

the medium storing uniquely identifiable parts of a body of law in association

20   with temporal information<u>, comprising one or more dates</u> indicating the <u>legal</u> applicability of the respective part ~~with respect to time~~, a plurality of the parts being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith;

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the computer system being programmed to display on the computer display device, in response to input from the computer input device, the identity of at least two parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other together with temporal information associated therewith, and to display that part whose

5   displayed identity is selected with the computer input device.

47.   (Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

a computer system including a computer display device, a computer input device and a computer-readable medium, the computer system being coupled to access data stored on the computer-readable medium;

10   the medium storing uniquely identifiable parts of a body of law and a table of contents (TOC) having headings which describe parts of the body of law, wherein each part is associated with temporal information indicating the legal applicability of the respective part with respect to time, a plurality of parts being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated

15   therewith;

the computer being programmed to display on the computer display device headings and temporal information; and

the computer being programmed to display on the computer display device a part selected with the computer input device that has temporal information associated

20   therewith that encompasses the displayed temporal information.

48.   (Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

a computer system including a computer display device; and

the computer readable medium information collection of claim 1, 2, 30 or 31;

the computer system being programmed to display on the display device a part of

25   the body of law having temporal information that encompasses a date forming at least part of a request input to the computer system.

49.   (Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

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a computer system including a computer display device;

the computer readable medium ~~information collection~~ of claim ~~3 or~~ 4; and

the computer system being programmed to control visibility on the display device of the units of the body of law based on whether temporal information associated with a respective unit encompasses a date forming at least part of a request input to the computer system.

50.   (Amended) A method of accessing an information collection stored on a computer readable medium using a computer coupled to access the information collection, the information collection comprising parts of a ~~the~~ body of law that are stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of the respective part of the body of law, a plurality of parts of the body of law that being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith, the method comprising;

displaying on a computer display device coupled to the computer dates in association with information identifying at least two parts that are different versions of each other; and

displaying on the computer display device that part of the body of law that is selected with a computer input device coupled to the computer.

51.   (Amended) A method of accessing an information collection stored on a computer readable medium using a computer coupled to access the information collection, the information collection comprising parts of a ~~the~~ body of law that are stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability ~~with respect to time~~ of the respective part of the body of law, a plurality of parts of the body of law being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith, the method comprising;

inputting to the computer using a computer input device the identity of a part of the body of law and a date; and

in response thereto, the computer causing the computer display device to display
that part whose identity was input to the computer and which has temporal
information encompassing the inputted date.

52.   (Original) A method according to claim 50 or 51, wherein the information collection
includes a table of contents (TOC) having headings with which one or more parts of the body of
law are associated, each heading being associated with temporal information indicating the
applicability of parts associated with the respective heading, the method comprising:

displaying on the computer display device a heading and the temporal information
associated therewith;

inputting to the computer using a computer input device a selection of displayed
temporal information associated with a heading; and

in response thereto, displaying on the computer display device the part of the
body of law in the displayed heading associated with the temporal information
that is selected using the computer input device.

53.   (Original) A method of providing the information collection of claim 2 or 4 comprising:

associating each information unit with applicable temporal information;

organizing the information units into topical units at least one of which includes
the plurality of information units having different versions of the same part of the
body of law; and

configuring the information collection to provide, in response to at least one
request identifying a topical unit and a date, an information unit of the identified
topical unit having temporal information associated therewith that encompasses
the date.

54.   (Original) A method of providing the information collection of claim 30, comprising:

associating each part of the body of law with applicable temporal information;

including each part of the body of law and its associated temporal information
into a lower level structured document;

associating applicable lower level structured documents with a higher level structured document;

including in each higher level document information relating to each lower level document associated therewith; and

5   configuring the information collection to provide, in response to at least one request identifying a part of the body of law and a date, a structured document including the identified part and temporal information associated therewith that encompasses the date.

55.   (Cancelled)